

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13385 091402Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 091300Z NOV 74 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1212

USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 2754

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13385

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLO UNGA XF

SUBJECT: PLO SECURITY--ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLO DELEGATIONS IN NEW
YORK

REF: STATE 247648; USUN 4872

SUMMARY: ON BASIS OF INFO CONTAINED REFTELS, PLO REPS
IN BEIRUT MOST GRATIFIED BY USG'S DESIRE BE FORTHCOMING
AS POSSIBLE IN WORKING OUT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SE-
CURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PLO OFFICIAL
AND INFORMATION DELS IN NEW YORK, AND THEY HAVE
AUTHORIZED SAADAT HASSAN TO USE HIS OWN DISCRETION IN
AGREEING TO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AS OUTLINED REFTELS.
THEY HAVE INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN REDUCING SIZE OF 17-MAN
INFO DEL, BUT THEY AGREED TO CUT IT TO 14 AND
WILL TRY TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CUTS. IN MEANTIME, THEY
REQUEST--AND EMBASSY RECOMMENDS--THAT DEPT,
FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH HASSAN NOV. 9,
AUTHORIZE EMBASSIES BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS ISSUE C-2
VISAS TO REMAINING 14 PERSONS WITHOUT DELAY. (ANY
FURTHER REDUCTIONS PLO IS ABLE TO MAKE IN SIZE OF
INFO DEL WILL BE COMMUNICATED SUBSEQUENTLY TO
DEPT. AND USUN.) AT SAME TIME, PLO REPS HERE ARE
IN QUANDARY OVER HOW TO FACILITATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS
FOR "ARAFAT'S OWN PERSONAL PARTY, SINCE THEY KNOW
PRACTICALLY NOTHING OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND HAVE BEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13385 091402Z

TOLD ONLY THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING HANDLED

THROUGH EGYPTIANS AND EMBASSYCAIRO. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF IMPARTED CONTENTS REFTELS TO LOCAL PLO REPS HOUT AND DAHER NOV.9, AND THEY REACTED MOST FAVORABLY TO USG'S POSITIVE APPROACH TO QUESTION OF SECURITY AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITS BY THREE PLO DELS (INFO DEL, OFFICIAL O-MAN DEL, AND 'ARAFAT'S OWN SEPARATE PARTY) TO NEW YORK. HOUT EMPHASIZED PALESTINIAN DESIRE TO AVOID ANY DIFFICULTIES OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON THIS QUESTION WITH USG, SINCE HE REGARDS PLO-US COOPERATION IN THIS RESPECT AS VITAL TO "CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL OUTCOME" OF UPCOMING UNGA DEBATE.

2. HOUT ASSURED EMBOFF THAT NO RPT NO MEMBER OF PLO OFFICIAL OR INFO DELS HAS ANY NOTION OF ENTERING US WITH FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, ETC.

3. HE REITERATED, ON BASIS OF ASSURANCES GIVEN TO HIM BY CAIRO PLO REP SAID KAMEL (WHO PASSED THROUGH BEIRUT AND RETURNED TO CAIRO NOV.8), THAT ALL RPT ALL ARRANGEMENTS RE VISIT TO US OF 'ARAFAT'S PARTY ARE BEING WORKED OUT THROUGH EGYPTIAN GOVT AND EMBASSY CAIRO. HOUT INSISTED (DESPITE 'ARAFAT'S PRESENCE TODAY IN BEIRUT--(SEE CAIRO 8922) THAT PLO OFFICIALS HERE HAVE VIRTUALLY NO RPT NO KNOWLEDGE RE TIMING OR DURATION OF "ARAFAT'S VISIT OR RE HIS PLANNED ITINERARY. HOUT IS GLAD TO KNOW USG IS PLANNING COMBINED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL THREE PLO PARTIES, BUT HE REMAINS UNABLE PROVIDE ANY HELPFUL INFO RE 'ARAFAT'S PLANS OR RE WHAT ALLEGEDLY IS GOING ON IN CAIRO. HE UNABLE TO GIVE SAADAT HASSAN AUTHORITY TO PLAN "ARAFAT'S OWN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, AND INSISTS THAT THIS MUST BE DONE THROUGH CAIRO. IN PARTICULAR, HOUT UNABLE TO THROW ANY LIGHT ON NAMES OF ADVANCE SECURITY DETAIL LIKELY TO PRECEDE 'ARAFAT TO NEW YORK, BUT HE IS CERTAIN THAT SUCH PERSONS ARE NOT RPT NOT INCLUDED IN PLO INFO DEL. HOUT REITERATED HOPE THAT IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE OPENING OF UNGA DEBATE, USG WILL NOT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 13385 091402Z

CONNTINUE INSIST THAT ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO PLO OFFICIAL AND INFO DELS MUST AWAIT FINALIZATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR 'ARAFAT'S PARTY.

4. HOUT DELIGHTED AT NEWS THAT USG NOW CONSIDERING HOTEL OR APPARTMENT ACCOMODATIONS FOR PLO OFFICIAL AND INFO DELS. HE SAID HE TELEPHONED SAADAT HASSAN NOV 8 AND GAVE HIM AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT ANY QUARTERS OF THIS

TYPE THAT HE (HASSAN) FOUND SUITABLE: I TOLD HASSAN WE WILL MEET HIM AT AIRPORT AND GLADLY FOLLOW HIM WHEREVER HE LEADS US". HOUT BELIEVES THAT IN VIEW OF USG'S ASSURANCES THAT NO ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO ISOLATE PLO OFFICIAL AND INFO DELS IN NEW YORK, HASSAN SHOULD HAVE NO FURTHER DIFFICULTY IN RESOLVING THIS ISSUE WITH HIS US CONTACTS NOV. 9.

5. EMBOFF PRESSED HARD FOR FURTHER REDUCTION IN SIZE OF 17-MAN INFO DEL. HOUT RESPONDED THAT PLO, AFTER PARING INITIAL COMPOSITION TO 27 AND THEN (AT USG'S REQUEST) TO 17, WOULD BE FACED WITH DIFFICULT INTERNAL PROBLEMS (BETWEEN REPS OF DIFFERENT PLO FACTIONS) IN REDUCING THIS DEL FURTHER. HE NOTED ALSO THAT LACK OF PLO STAFF IN NEW YORK MADE IT NECESSARY FOR INFO DEL TO INCLUDE SEVERAL "CLERKS AND TRANSLATORS." AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND SEVERAL PHONE CALLS, HOUT FINALLY AGREED TO REDUCE DEL TO 14 MEMBERS, DELETING YAHYA MOHAMMAD ALI, FAWZIAH HASSAN MOHAMMAD, AND LINA MIGDADI (NOS. 9, 10 AND 16 AS REPORTED USUN 4829), AND TO STUDY POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER CUTS. HE PROMISED KEEP US INFORMED OF PROGRESS IN LATTER REGARD. IN MEANTIME, HE REQUESTED THAT USG AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF VISAS SOONEST TO REMAINING 14 MEMBERS, ON UNDERSTANDING THAT HOUT WILL DO HIS BEST TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CUTS IN MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT THREE MEMBERS OF INFO DEL--NOS. 13 THROUGH 15 AS REPORTED USUN 4829--WILL SEEK VISAS FROM EMBASSY DAMASCUS, BUT WILL THEN DEPART BEIRUT WITH REST OF DEL FOR TRAVEL TO NEW YORK.) EMBOFF AGREED TO REFER HOUT'S SUGGESTION TO DEPT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 13385 091402Z

6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE HOUT WILL CARRY OUT HIS PROMISE TO CONTINUE EFFORT TO PARE SIZE OF INFO DEL IN GOOD FAITH. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT ACCEPT THIS ARRANGEMENT AND -- UPON COMPLETION OF SECURITY, HOUSING AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLO OFFICIAL AND INFO DELS WITH SAADAT HASSAN (HOPEFULLY BY AFTERNOON NOV 9)--EXTRACT OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF 14 NAMES NOW COMPRISING INFO DEL FROM UNSYG AND IMMEDIATELY AUTHRORIZE EMBASSIES BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS TO ISSUE THEM APPROPRIATE VISAS. (PENDING ISSUANCE OF SUCH VISAS, INFO DEL IS HAVING TROUBLE OBTAINING AIRLINE RESERVATIONS FOR TRAVEL TO NEW YORK.) ON RELATED QUESTION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR 'ARAFAT'S VISIT, WE URGE DEPT PURSUE THIS QUESTION URGENTLY WITH EMBASSY CAIRO AND GOE.

GODLEY

NOTE BY OC/T: BEIRUT 13385 RAISED TO EXDIS PER MR. SARROS, S/S-0.

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